

Teen Driver Task Force Meeting – Meeting Minutes

1/31/19

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Public Safety Building – DMV

OHS Conference Room – 2nd Floor

Dover, DE

Attendees:

Sarah Cattie, Office of Highway Safety
Tracy Condon, Delaware State Police
Michael Wagner, DOE – Driver Education
Anthony Kwoka, DOE/DDSEA
Pete Booker, SmartDrive Foundation
Guy VanderLek, SmartDrive Foundation
Amy Anthony, Division of Motor Vehicles
Jana Simpler, Division of Motor Vehicles
James Diana, DATE

Sarah Cattie updated the group about OHS' recent staffing changes, continued work on the update to the GDL Parent Orientation Program, status of the legislative change with the Insurance Commissioner, and the Annual Report.

Individual Member Updates:

Anthony Kwoka – DDSEA is still working on a date for the spring driving competition. There will be 4 scholarships again, as there were last year. They will also continue the "Driving Instructor of the Year" award.

Tracy Condon – Tracy has spoken with the SROs and asked them for feedback in regards to the request to be more proactive. In New Castle County, she said the majority are involved – stating that some have offered their assistance to the Driver's Education teachers, but not always accepted. In Kent County, SROs are offering to schedule time in the classroom for both semesters. In Sussex County, Tracy has not received a response, but she knows that they are involved. She told Anthony to get in touch with Brian Pixley to set up time to meet with the SROs at their meeting before the next school year. Also, Tracy worked with DelJIS in E-Ticket per the discussion from the last meeting about identifying drivers per their GDL status. Tracy shared the changes and if the group approves, they can be put into place.

Pete Booker – Pete announced that he has stepped away from SmartDrive in a day-to-day capacity to become the executive director of the Delaware Safety Council. Pete will continue to be supportive of SmartDrive but Guy VanderLek will be handling the operations. Pete shared that SmartDrive is looking at teens age 17 plus, as the crash rates rise once teen get through the first year of driving and drive without restrictions.

Guy VanderLek – SmartDrive received its three year renewal for the classic program for another three years. PROMise will be a 1 week pledge campaign. SmartDrive will also focus on the 100 deadliest days of summer. SmartDrive will be incentivizing programs upfront – schools must agree to presentations to

participate. One new program they are working on is “Heads Up” – which involves behavior modification. They are also looking to establish a scholarship in memory of a student.

Michael Wagner – Mike offered a thanks to the group and their support. Last year was the first year for scholarships at the driving competition. This year, The Gift of Life is going to support 7 scholarships for the upcoming driving competition. It's the parent's decision for a child under 18 if they wish to elect to make the distinction on the license for organ donation. The DMV remains the largest source for The Gift of Life to receive designees.

Amy Anthony – Updates are happening with the Parent/Sponsor driver manuals. The Class D manuals are being updated as well. DMV continues to support an app (mentioned on the DMV website) that parents can use to log driving hours with their student.

James Diana – DATE will be sponsoring youth police academies throughout the state. The New Castle County program will run June 17-21 at the Beau Biden Center. The Kent/Sussex Counties program will be held in late July at the Smyrna Readiness Center. This program focuses on high school students. DATE will also hold a Citizens Police Academy starting April 3.

The next Teen Driver Task Force Meeting will be held on May 2, 2019 at 9 am in the OHS Conference Room. An invitation will follow via Outlook.